©Officials tour Richardson Flats is to check for contamination

Reporters not allowed to 20 along, Owner doubts area hus serious problem.

ly Joseph Baumin Special Name environmental specialist

PARK CITY — Slate, county and federal officials toward the Zilchardton Flatt mine killings site Hear Park City on Theaday to Kack for contamination — but a ompany official refused to allow The newsmedia onto the property vita theza.

The lead belongs to United Park

Health Service. The service sei up the inspection of the 160-acre site.

In February, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed adding Richardson Plats to its Superfunc cleanup list because of confernination by heavy metals. The erea, near the junction of U. 218 and U.S. 40 two miles northessi of Park City, has been severed With topsoil.

Totle confirmation came from mining by the Keelley Mine, which ended its operations in 1982. The property is now owned by United Park Clis Mines

"Weestered into an agreement with them (Public Health Service

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Faderal and local officials begin a tour of the mine fallings site near the lunction of U-248 and U.S. 40.

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officers) and asked them to identify those they wanted to attend" the tour, Osika said. Members of the news media were not among those listed by the Health Service. he adžed.

Osika said that after the official reproces week lessed a such could have a private visit to the site. But that would not include the questions and answers of the dozen or so experts who did walk onto the property.

The mine company doesn't see ibe area as having a terious environmental problem, Calka said shortly before the cour.

"Wa have spent an extensive amount of money to cover the tailings with topsoil and revegetate them, to reclaim the area, " he said. "And that's been veluntary. There's been no order or directive

tc do that"

In 1989, EPA experts wrole areport "which states there's norelease from the site," he said. EPA tests in June showed no serious air orwater pollution, hosaid.

The lour was arranged because the Health Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is updating information about the site.

On Wednesday, a Public Health Service official was to be available in Park City to meet with any area resident concerned about Richardcon Fints.

Don Gibeaut, an environmental hea th engineer with the Public Health Service, based in Alianta, sald just before the lour Wednesday, "We haven't been to the altein recent years, so we're going to go up there and look."

He said the failings pose so health dangers, tatar as he knows.

During the tour, officials planned to see waether the wilings

are covered and check for cossible routes by which logic material could migrate to other areas.

Bob Swensen, environmental health director for the Summit City-County Health Department, said he was there to see what Pubhe Health Service officials find and to delermine how big a concern the si e may be.

Asted whether any health prob-lent is associated with Richardson Flats, he said, ' No! that wa're awere of."

"We're just here to back up the EPA," said Harold Sandbeck of the Utah Division of Environment 'al Response and Remediation, project manager for Richardson Flats. He said he also knows of no problems with the area.

Anyone with concerns about Richardson Flatz may letephone Lydia Ogden Askew, community 1alson for the Agency for Texic Substances and Direase Registry. at (404) 619-0727.

